#### SJS 44 (Rev. 12/07, NJ 5/08)

# Case 2:13-cv-00346-CDJ Document 1 Filed 01/22/13 Page 1 of 12 CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE OF THE FORM.)

MCHAEL BOLTON and CYNTHIA BOLTON  (b) County of Residence of First Listed Plainfiff'  (c) Attorney's (Firm Name, Address, Telephone Number and Email Address)  Craig Thor Kimmel, Esquire  Kimmel & Silverman, P.C.  30 E. Butler Pike  Ambler, PA 19002  2151, 5461, 8888  II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (Pace an "X" in One Box Outy)  1 U.S. Government  3 1 Federal Question  (U.S. Government Mora Party)  1 U.S. Government  3 1 Federal Question  (U.S. Government Mora Party)  (Indicate Criticanship of Parties in Into III)  1 U.S. Government  1 V. NATURE OF SUIT (Place an "X" in One Box Only)  1 1 ON Spatials Information  1 1 10 Mospratis Information  1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	the civil docket sheet. (SEE IN			d States II		ned for the disc of the Clerk of	Court for the purpose of initiating	
(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff  (c) Attorney's (Firm Name, Address, Telephone Number and Email Address)  Craig Thor Kimmel, Esquire  Kimmel & Silverman, P.C.  30 E. Butler Pike  Ambiler, PA 19002  11. U.S. Government  11. U.S. Government  11. U.S. Government  11. U.S. Government  12. U.S. Government  12. U.S. Government  13. 1 Coloration of Parisis in Bentility  14. 1 Pownity  (bidicina Chizenship of Parisis in Bentility  15. 1 (Delamance)  16. 1 (Delamance)  17. 1 (Delamance)  18. 1 (Delamance)  19. 1	I. (a) PLAINTIFFS				DEFENDANTS			
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Craig Thor Kimmel, Esquire Kimmel & Silverman, P.C. 30 E. Butler Pike Ambler, PA 18002  21 III. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (Pike as "X" is One Box Only)  11 III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES/Pice as "X" is One Box Only)  12 U.S. Government Philantiff (U.S. Government Philantiff (U.S. Government Philantiff (U.S. Government U.S. Govern					County of Residence o	f First Listed Defendant		
U.S. Government   Plantiff   Citizen of This State     1	Craig Thor Kimmel, E. Kimmel & Silverman, 30 E. Butler Pike Ambler, PA 19002 (215) 540-8888	squire P.C.		+	LAND I Attorneys (If Known)	NVOLVED.		
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VI. CAUSE OF ACTION   Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity):   VI. CAUSE OF ACTION   Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity):   VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:   UNDER F.R.C.P. 23   CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint: UNDER F.R.C.P. 23   UNDER F.R.C.P. 23   OCKET NUMBER   DOCKET NUMB	<ul> <li>□ 120 Marine</li> <li>□ 130 Miller Act</li> <li>□ 140 Negotiable Instrument</li> <li>□ 150 Recovery of Overpayment &amp; Enforcement of Judgment</li> <li>□ 151 Medicare Act</li> <li>□ 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excl. Veterans)</li> <li>□ 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits</li> <li>□ 160 Stockholders' Suits</li> <li>□ 190 Other Contract</li> <li>□ 195 Contract Product Liability</li> <li>□ 196 Franchise</li> <li>REAL PROPERTY</li> <li>□ 210 Land Condemnation</li> <li>□ 220 Foreclosure</li> <li>□ 230 Rent Lease &amp; Ejectment</li> <li>□ 240 Torts to Land</li> <li>□ 245 Tort Product Liability</li> </ul>	□ 310 Airplane □ 315 Airplane Product Liability □ 320 Assault, Libel & Slander □ 330 Federal Employers' Liability □ 340 Marine □ 345 Marine Product Liability □ 350 Motor Vehicle □ 355 Motor Vehicle □ 700 Other Personal Injury ■ 360 Other Personal Injury ■ 441 Voting □ 442 Employment □ 443 Housing/ Accommodations □ 444 Welfare □ 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - Employment □ 446 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other	□ 362 Personal Injury - Med. Malpractice □ 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability □ 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability PERSONAL PROPER □ 370 Other Fraud □ 371 Truth in Lending □ 380 Other Personal Property Damage Product Liability  PRISONER PETITIO! □ 510 Motions to Vacat Sentence Habeas Corpus: □ 530 General □ 535 Death Penalty □ 540 Mandamus & Otf □ 550 Civil Rights	62	0 Other Food & Drug 5 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 0 Liquor Laws 0 R.R. & Truck 0 Airline Regs. 0 Occupational Safety/Health 0 Other  LABOR 0 Fair Labor Standards Act 0 Labor/Mgmt. Relations 0 Labor/Mgmt.Reporting & Disclosure Act 0 Railway Labor Act 0 Other Labor Litigation 1 Empl. Ret. Inc. Security Act  IMMIGRATION 2 Naturalization Application 3 Habeas Corpus - Alien Detainee 5 Other Immigration	□ 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157  PROPERTY RIGHTS □ 820 Copyrights □ 840 Trademark  SOCIAL SECURITY □ 861 HIA (1395ff) □ 862 Black Lung (923) □ 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) □ 864 SSID Title XVI □ 865 RSI (405(g))  FEDERAL TAX SUITS □ 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) □ 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609	□ 410 Antitrust □ 430 Banks and Banking □ 450 Commerce □ 460 Deportation □ 470 Racketeer Influenced and	
Explanation:	VI. CAUSE OF ACTIVII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:	emoved from ate Court  Cite the U.S. Civil Star 15 U.S.C SECT Brief description of car Fair Debt Collect UNDER F.R.C.P.  E(S)  (See instructions):	Appellate Court TON 1692  use: ction Practices Action S A CLASS ACTION 23	Reopere filing (	pened another (specification)	cr district	Magistrate Judgment	
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SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECOI

01/22/2013 /s/ CRAIG THOR KIMMEL

# IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

# CASE MANAGEMENT TRACK DESIGNATION FORM

MICHAEL BOLTON AND BOLTON v.	CYNTHIA : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : :	CIVIL ACTION	
NCO FINANCIAL SYSTEM	: MS, INC. : :	NO.	
plaintiff shall complete a Cas filing the complaint and serve side of this form.) In the ex- designation, that defendant sha	e Management Track a copy on all defenda yent that a defendant all, with its first appea Case Management Tr	Delay Reduction Plan of this court, couns Designation Form in all civil cases at the trust. (See § 1:03 of the plan set forth on the redoes not agree with the plaintiff regardinarance, submit to the clerk of court and serve ack Designation Form specifying the track to .	ime of everse g said on the
SELECT ONE OF THE FO	LLOWING CASE N	MANAGEMENT TRACKS:	
(a) Habeas Corpus – Cases br	ought under 28 U.S.C	C. § 2241 through § 2255.	( )
(b) Social Security – Cases re and Human Services deny		decision of the Secretary of Health ecurity Benefits.	( )
(c) Arbitration - Cases requir	red to be designated for	or arbitration under Local Civil Rule 53.2.	(X)
(d) Asbestos – Cases involvin exposure to asbestos.	ng claims for personal	injury or property damage from	( )
commonly referred to as c	complex and that need	to tracks (a) through (d) that are I special or intense management by etailed explanation of special	( )
(f) Standard Management – C	Cases that do not fall i	nto any one of the other tracks.	( )
·	Craig Thor Kimmel Attorney-at-law	Plaintiffs, Michael & Cynthia Bolton Attorney for	
·	877-788-2864 FAX Number	<u>kimmel@creditlaw.com</u> E-Mail Address	

# Case 2:13-cv-00346+010ED STATION DISTRICED CO/2R/13 Page 3 of 12

FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA — DESIGNATION FORM to be used by counsel to indicate the category of the case for the purpose of assignment to appropriate calendar.

assignment to appropriate calendar.	
Address of Plaintiff: 400 Greer Avenue, High Point, Nor	cth Carolina, 27260
Address of Defendant: 507 Prudential Rd., Horsham, PA	19044
Place of Accident, Incident or Transaction:  (Use Reverse Side For A.	History I Comp.
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Does this civil action involve a nongovernmental corporate party with any parent corporation and	
(Attach two copies of the Disclosure Statement Form in accordance with Fed.R.Civ.P. 7.1(a))	Yes□ No <b>⊠</b>
Does this case involve multidistrict litigation possibilities?	Yes□ No⊠
RELATED CASE, IF ANY:	
Case Number:Judge	Date Terminated:
Civil cases are deemed related when yes is answered to any of the following questions:	
1. Is this case related to property included in an earlier numbered suit pending or within one ye	ear previously terminated action in this court?
	Yes□ No⊠
<ol><li>Does this case involve the same issue of fact or grow out of the same transaction as a prior staction in this court?</li></ol>	uit pending or within one year previously terminated
	Yes□ No⊠
3. Does this case involve the validity or infringement of a patent already in suit or any earlier n	umbered case pending or within one year previously
terminated action in this court?	Yes□ No⊠
4. Is this case a second or successive habeas corpus, social security appeal, or pro se civil right:	s case filed by the same individual?
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CIVIL: (Place ✓ in ONE CATEGORY ONLY)	
A. Federal Question Cases:	B. Diversity Jurisdiction Cases:
1.   Indemnity Contract, Marine Contract, and All Other Contracts	1. □ Insurance Contract and Other Contracts
2. □ FELA	2. □ Airplane Personal Injury
3. □ Jones Act-Personal Injury	3. □ Assault, Defamation
4. □ Antitrust	4. □ Marine Personal Injury
5. □ Patent	5. □ Motor Vehicle Personal Injury
6. □ Labor-Management Relations	6. □ Other Personal Injury (Please specify)
7. □ Civil Rights	7. □ Products Liability
8. □ Habeas Corpus	8. □ Products Liability — Asbestos
9. □ Securities Act(s) Cases	9. □ All other Diversity Cases
10. □ Social Security Review Cases	(Please specify)
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(Please specify) <u>15 U.S.C.</u> § 1692	
ARBITRATION CERT	IFICATION
(Check Appropriate Ca	ategory)
I, Craig Thor Kimmel , counsel of record do hereby certif	
\$150,000.00 exclusive of interest and costs;	bener, the damages recoverable in this civil action case exceed the sum of
□ Relief other than monetary damages is sought.	
DATE: 01/02/2012 /-/ Gualia: Ellar: Kimmal	57100
DATE: 01/22/2013 /s/ Craig Thor Kimme	Attorney I.D.#
NOTE: A trial de novo will be a trial by jury only if the	·
Location that the man become at the state of	
I certify that, to my knowledge, the within case is not related to any case now pending or vexcept as noted above.	within one year previously terminated action in this court
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DATE: 01/22/2013 /s/ Craig Thor Kimmel	57100
Attorney-at-Law	Attorney I.D.#

1 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 2 EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA 3 MICHAEL BOLTON AND CYNTHIA BOLTON, 4 **Plaintiffs** Case No.: 5 **COMPLAINT AND DEMAND FOR** v. 6 **JURY TRIAL** NCO FINANCIAL SYSTEMS, INC., 7 (Unlawful Debt Collection Practices) 8 Defendant 9 **COMPLAINT** 10 MICHAEL BOLTON AND CYNTHIA BOLTON ("Plaintiffs"), by and through their 11 attorneys, KIMMEL & SILVERMAN, P.C., allege the following against NCO FINANCIAL 12 SYSTEMS, INC. ("Defendant"): 13 **INTRODUCTION** 14 1. Plaintiffs' Complaint is based on the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 15 U.S.C. § 1692 et seq. ("FDCPA") and the Telephone Consumer Protection Act, 47 U.S.C. §227 16 et seq. ("TCPA"). 17 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE** 18 2. 19 Jurisdiction of this court arises pursuant to 15 U.S.C. §1692k(d), which states 20 that such actions may be brought and heard before "any appropriate United States district court 21 without regard to the amount in controversy," and 28 U.S.C. §1331 grants this court original 22 jurisdiction of all civil actions arising under the laws of the United States. 23 3. Defendant's headquarters are in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; therefore, 24 personal jurisdiction is established. 25 4. Venue lies in this district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1391(b). - 1 -

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**PARTIES** 

- 5. Plaintiffs are each a natural person residing in High Point, North Carolina 27260.
- 6. Plaintiff MICHAEL BOLTON is a "consumer" as that term is defined by 15 U.S.C. §1692a(3).
- 7. In the alternative, Plaintiff MICHAEL BOLTON is a person granted a cause of action under the FDCPA. See 15 U.S.C. §1692k(a) and Weinrich v. Cole, 2000 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 18687 (E.D. Pa. Dec. 22, 2000).
- 8. Additionally, Plaintiff CYNTHIA BOLTON is a person granted a cause of action under the FDCPA. See 15 U.S.C. §1692k(a) and Weinrich v. Cole, 2000 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 18687 (E.D. Pa. Dec. 22, 2000).
- 9. Defendant is a national debt collection company with its corporate headquarters located at 507 Prudential Road, Horsham, Pennsylvania 19044.
- 10. Defendant collects, and attempts to collect, consumer debts incurred, or alleged to have been incurred, for personal, family or household purposes on behalf of creditors and debt buyers using the U.S. Mail, telephone and/or internet.
- 11. Defendant is a "debt collector" as that term is defined by 15 U.S.C. §1692a(6), and repeatedly contacted Plaintiffs in an attempt to collect a debt.
- 12. Defendant acted through its agents, employees, officers, members, directors, heirs, successors, assigns, principals, trustees, sureties, subrogees, representatives, and insurers.

### FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

13. At all relevant times, Defendant was attempting to collect an alleged consumer debt.

- 14. The alleged debt at issue arose out of transactions, which were primarily for personal, family, or household purposes.
- 15. Beginning in or before August 2012, and continuing through December 2012, Defendant continuously and repetitively contacted Plaintiffs on their home and cellular telephones allegedly to collect a debt.
- 16. Defendant contacted Plaintiffs on their cellular telephone through the use of an automated dialing system in an attempt to coerce payment of the debt, with the intent to annoy, abuse, or harass Plaintiffs.
- 17. Plaintiffs did not consent to the placement of telephone calls to their cellular telephone by Defendant or the creditor that placed the account for collection with Defendant.
- 18. During this time, Defendant called Plaintiffs' home and cellular telephones, on average, two (2) to three (3) times a day, causing them to receive more than ten (10) collection calls a week.
- 19. Many of the collection calls Plaintiffs received originated from, but are not limited to, the following number: (800) 477-1827, which the undersigned has confirmed is a telephone number belonging to Defendant.
- 20. When contacting Plaintiffs on their home and cellular telephones, Defendant contacted them at times when it was inconvenient for them to receive collection calls, specifically calling them before 8:00 a.m. and after 9:00 p.m.
- 21. Defendant's sole purpose in contacting Plaintiffs before 8:00 a.m. and after 9:00 p.m., was to annoy, abuse and harass Plaintiffs.
  - 22. Most recently, Defendant contacted Plaintiffs on December 6, 2012.

- 23. Lastly, in its communications with Plaintiff Michael Bolton, Defendant's collectors threatened to take legal action against him and to freeze his banking accounts if he did not make payment on the alleged debt.
- 24. At the time Defendant threatened to freeze Plaintiff Michael Bolton's banking accounts, Defendant not only did not have the legal authority to do so, but did not intend to take such action.
- 25. Also, at the time Defendant threatened to take legal action against Plaintiff Michael Bolton, Defendant did not intend to take such action.
- 26. Defendant's actions in attempting to collect a debt were harassing, abusive, and annoying.
- 27. Defendant acted in an abusive, harassing, unconscionable and unfair manner by communicating with Plaintiffs at times when it was inconvenient for them to receive collection calls.
- 28. Defendant acted in an abusive, harassing, unconscionable and unfair manner by causing Plaintiffs telephone to ring or engaging Plaintiffs in telephone conversation repeatedly or continuously with the intent to annoy, abuse and/or harass Plaintiffs.
- 29. Defendant acted in a false, deceptive, misleading and unfair manner by threatening to freeze banking accounts when it cannot legally take that action or did not intend to take such action.
- 30. Defendant acted in a false, deceptive, misleading and unfair manner by threatening to take any legal action that cannot legally be taken or that is not intended to be taken.

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- 31. Defendant acted in a false, deceptive, misleading and unfair manner by the use of any unfair or unconscionable means to collect or attempt to collect any debt.
  - 32. Defendant knew or should have known that its actions violated the FDCPA.
- 33. Furthermore, Defendant should have taken the steps necessary to bring their employee's actions within compliance of the FDCPA and TCPA, but neglected to do so and failed to adequately review those actions to insure compliance with said laws.

## DEFENDANT VIOLATED THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT **COUNT I**

- 34. Defendant's conduct, as detailed in the preceding paragraphs, violated 15 U.S.C. §§1692d and 1692d(5).
  - a. A debt collector violates §1692c(a)(1) of the FDCPA by communicating with a consumer in connection with the collection of any debt at any unusual time or place or a time or place known or which should be known to be inconvenient to the consumer. In absence of knowledge of circumstances to the contrary, a debt collector shall assume that the convenient time for communicating with a consumer is after 8:00 a.m. and before 9:00 p.m., local time at the consumer's location.
  - b. Here, Defendant violated §1692c(a)(1) of the FDCPA when it called Plaintiffs before 8:00 a.m. and after 9:00 p.m.

### **COUNT II**

- 35. Defendant's conduct, as detailed in the preceding paragraphs, violated 15 U.S.C. §§1692d and 1692d(5).
  - a. Section 1692d of the FDCPA prohibits a debt collector from engaging

in conduct the natural consequence of which is to harass, oppress, or abuse any person in connection with the collection of a debt.

- b. Section 1692d(5) of the FDCPA prohibits debt collectors from causing a telephone to ring or engaging any person in telephone conversation repeatedly or continuously with the intent to annoy, abuse, or harass any person at the called number.
- c. Here, Defendant violated §§1692d and 1692d(5) of the FDCPA by continuously calling Plaintiffs on their home and cellular telephones two (2) to three (3) times a day, causing them to receive at least ten (10) collection calls a week, with the intent to harass or annoy Plaintiffs.

### **COUNT III**

- 36. Defendant's conduct, as detailed in the preceding paragraphs, violated 15 U.S.C. §§1692e, 1692e(4) and 1692e(5).
  - a. A debt collector violates §1692e of the FDCPA by using false, deceptive or misleading representations or means in connection with the collection of any debt.
  - b. A debt collector violates §1692e(4) of the FDCPA by representing or implicating that nonpayment of any debt will result in the arrest or imprisonment of any person or the seizure, garnishment, attachment, or sale of any property or wages of any person unless such action is lawful and the debt collector or creditor intends to take such action.
  - c. A debt collector violates §1692e(5) of the FDCPA by threatening to take any action that cannot legally be taken or that is not intended to be

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taken.

- d. Here, Defendant violated §§1692e and 1692e(4) of the FDCPA by threatening to freeze Plaintiff Michael Bolton's bank accounts when it did not have the legal authority to take the action it threatened and did not intend to take the action it threatened.
- e. Here, Defendant violated §§1692e and 1692e(5) of the FDCPA by threatening to take legal action against Plaintiff Michael Bolton when it did not intend to take the action it threatened.

## **COUNT IV**

- 37. Defendant's conduct, as detailed in the preceding paragraphs, violated 15 U.S.C. §1692f.
  - d. A debt collector violates §1692f of the FDCPA by using unfair and unconscionable means to collect or attempt to collect any debt.
  - e. Here, Defendant violated §1692f of the FDCPA by using unfair and unconscionable means to collect or attempt to collect a debt, including relentlessly contacting Plaintiffs with an automatic dialer in an attempt to collect a debt.

# DEFENDANT VIOLATED THE TELEPHONE CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT COUNT V

- 38. Plaintiffs hereby incorporate all facts and allegations specified in all preceding paragraphs, by reference as if fully set forth at length.
- 39. The Telephone Consumer Protection Act ("TCPA"), 47 U.S.C. §227 et seq., prohibits the use of an automatic telephone dialing system or a pre-recorded or artificial voice to

place telephone calls to an individual on his or her cellular telephone. <u>See</u> 47 U.S.C. \$227(b)(1)(A)(iii).

- 40. A person may bring a private cause of action "based on a violation of this subsection or the regulations prescribed under this subsection to enjoin such violation." See 47 U.S.C. §227(b)(3)(A).
- 41. Also, a person is entitled to bring "an action to recover for actual monetary loss from such a violation, or to receive \$500 in damages for each such violation, whichever is greater." See 47 U.S.C. §227(c)(5)(B).
- 42. The Court, in its discretion, is authorized to award up to three (3) times the actual damages sustained by a person for violations of the TCPA. <u>See</u> 47 U.S.C. §227(c)(5).
- 43. Defendant repeatedly and regularly placed non-emergency, automated calls to Plaintiffs' cellular telephone, leaving several messages using a pre-recorded or artificial voice.
- 44. Defendant did not have Plaintiffs' express consent prior to contacting them on their cellular telephone using an automatic telephone dialing system or pre-recorded or artificial voice.
- 45. Defendant's conduct violated §227(b)(1)(A)(iii) of the TCPA by making any call using any automatic telephone dialing system or an artificial prerecorded voice to a telephone number assigned to a cellular telephone service.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs, MICHAEL BOLTON AND CYNTHIA BOLTON, respectfully pray for a judgment as follows:

- a. All actual damages suffered pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(1);
- b. Statutory damages of \$1,000.00 for the violation of the FDCPA pursuant to
   15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(2)(A);

1	c. Statutory damages of \$500.00 for each violation of the TCPA, pursuant to 47				
2	U.S.C. § 227(c)(5)(B);				
3	d. All reasonable attorneys' fees, witness fees, court costs and other litigation				
4	costs incurred by Plaintiffs pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1693k(a)(3); and				
5	c. Any other relief deemed appropriate by this Honorable Court.				
6	DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL				
7	PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Plaintiffs, MICHAEL BOLTON AND CYNTHIA				
8	BOLTON, demand a jury trial in this case.				
9	RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,				
10	DATED: 01/22/2013 KIMMEL & SILVERMAN, P.C.				
11	By: /s/ Craig Thor Kimmel				
12	Craig Thor Kimmel, Esquire PA Attorney Id. No. 57100				
13	30 E. Butler Pike Ambler, PA 19002				
14	Phone: (215) 540-8888				
15	Fax: (877) 788-2864 Email: kimmel@creditlaw.com				
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